

NARC



National Association of Regional Councils

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Web Site:

<http://www.narc.org>

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Commission Secretary
Portals II
Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Suite TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: File No. NSD-L-99-24
CC Docket No. 92-105

Dear Ms. Salas:

As per the instructions in the public notice, I am submitting to you the original and four copies of the National Association of Regional Councils and the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organization's letter of support.

Your assistance with this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Richard Price
Transportation Policy Analyst

NARC



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The Honorable William E. Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: File No. NSD-L-99-24
CC Docket No. 92-105

Dear Chairman Kennard:

On behalf of the Members of the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) and the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO), we are writing in support of the United States Department of Transportation's petition for an assignment of a nationwide standard abbreviated dialing number (N11) for use by state and local governments in the delivery of travel related information to the public.

The National Association of Regional Councils represents the interests of regional councils and other groups that promote inter-jurisdictional cooperation and the building of regional communities. As an affiliate organization and the transportation arm of NARC, the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations advances the transportation interests of urban regions and enhances the ability of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) nationwide to carry out their responsibilities through a national strategic service and advocacy program. With a combined membership of over 300 Regional Councils and Metropolitan Planning Organizations, NARC and AMPO represent regional organizations that provide the technical expertise and forums for confronting the 21st Century challenges facing our nation.

A challenge we are faced with is the ever-increasing problem of congestion on the roads of our metropolitan communities. As a result, each year there are more than six million motor vehicle crashes nationally, with roughly 5.2 million injuries and 41,000 fatalities. Reducing the dependence on traditional road-building programs as a means for reducing congestion should be a goal of every regional community. We believe that the use of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technologies will not only improve our nation's transportation infrastructure but the use of ITS can help save lives. Implementation of a nationwide standard abbreviated dialing number (N11), a type of ITS technology, can assist in resolving

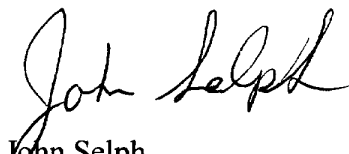
these endemic problems by providing travelers instant access to real time, up-to-date traffic information and travel services.

N11 provides many other tangible benefits to our nation's regional communities and to the traveling public within them. At present, forty-three metropolitan areas and forty-two states are operating traveler information systems using the telephone as the primary communication medium. In these areas, travelers can get up-to-the-minute, route-specific travel information from either a touch-tone or cellular phone, which enables them to make the optimal choices relative to their time, route, and mode of travel. However, because each area provides its own telephone number - and sometimes several numbers are required for a given metropolitan area - travelers commuting across or to different regional areas must remember multiple traveler information numbers. Another problem with the existing system is that simpler, abbreviated numbers are not available in all areas. Additionally, maintaining the current regional traveler information telephone numbers is becoming too complicated and ineffective by the constant change in area codes. All of these problems severely restrict the benefits of traveler information systems that otherwise would be available with a simple, cost-effective nationwide N11 number.

Metropolitan Planning Organizations have an instrumental role in the transportation planning process by providing forums for local elected officials to debate and consider the usage of ITS as a component of transportation projects. N11 would permit MPOs to consolidate and coordinate other regional efforts to implement ITS traveler information services. MPOs provide an existing infrastructure, the necessary professional relationships, and financial support to ensure an efficient and effective implementation of N11.

Therefore, we urge the Federal Communications Commission to approve the United States Department of Transportation's petition for an assignment of a nationwide standard abbreviated dialing number (N11) and give our regional communities an invaluable resource for providing travelers with real time, up-to-the-minute traffic information. N11 will enhance the safety and efficiency of our nation's surface transportation network.

Sincerely,



John Selph
President
National Association of Regional Councils
Tulsa County Commissioner, Tulsa, OK



Brian Mills
Chairman
Association of Metropolitan Planning Organization
Cass County Commissioner, Harrisonville, MO

cc: Magalie Roman Salas, FCC Secretary
Al McCloud